

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended). A spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure having a cavity between the first side and the second side, a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and a first engagement spring, the first engagement spring connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs having second front ends, and a second engagement spring, the second engagement spring connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end and the peak, the hindrance portion comprising ~~one structure selected from ripple, side rib, upward solid bent extension parallel to the peak and the free end, knurled region, bent teeth, each having a depth, and a combination thereof, and~~ one to three ripples, each ripple having the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion having a surface, wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple, said ripple provides ~~providing~~ increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by ~~a rib~~ an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal force being due to the hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the ~~rib~~ extension without damage to said fastener.

2 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the depth of the ripple, ~~the side rib, the upward solid bent extension which is parallel to the peak, the knurled region, and the bent teeth~~ is smaller than 0.2 mm.

3 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the hindrance portion comprises ripples, each ripple has the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion has a surface, comprises not more than three ripples, and wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple.

4 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the hindrance portion comprises not more than two ripples.

5 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 4, wherein the hindrance portion comprises only one ripple.

6 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 5, wherein the ripple width is larger than the depth of the ripple.

7 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 6, wherein the ripple width is at least twice the size of the depth of the ripple.

8 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 6, wherein the ripple width is in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 mm and the ripple depth is in the range of 0.01 to 0.1 mm.

9 (amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the back side has a slope in the range of 15 to 30 degrees with regard to the general plane of the hindrance portion.

10 (amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the front side has a higher slope than the back side.

11 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 5, wherein the ripple has only a back side, substantially lacking a front side.

12 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11, wherein the back side has the form of a curvature with a gradually decreasing slope.

13 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 12, wherein the gradually decreasing slope has the shape of an arc in the range of 50-70 degrees with a radius in the range of 0.03 -0.05 mm.

14 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of :

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.

15 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 3, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of :

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.

16 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of :

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.

17 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 12, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of :

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.

18 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 14, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, flexible, and bent at its respective front end.

19 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 15, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, flexible, and bent at its respective front end.

20 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 16, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, flexible, and bent at its respective front end.

21 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 17, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, flexible, and bent at its respective front end.

22 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 14, wherein the material from which the spring fastener was made from has a thickness, and

the front points of the outside outer barbs are at a distance from the second side smaller than the thickness of said material.

23 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 17, wherein the material from which the spring fastener was made from has a thickness, and the front points of the outside outer barbs are at a distance from the second side smaller than the thickness of said material.

24 (currently amended). A spring fastener as defined in claim 21, wherein the material from which the spring fastener was made from has a thickness, and the front points of the outside outer barbs are at a distance from the second side smaller than the thickness of said material.

25 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the fastener has a width in the vicinity of the top portion of the fastener which is at least 60% as wide as the slot width.

26 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

27 (cancelled). A spring fastener as defined in claim 3, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

28 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 11, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

29 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 12, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

30 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, further comprising additional lower barbs pointing inwardly and originating from the vicinity of the bottom portions of the first side and the second side of the fastener.

31 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein each side of the spring fastener has only one upper barb and one lower barb, the upper barb of one side facing the lower barb of the other side and vice versa.

32 (original). A spring fastener as defined in claim 1, further comprising a relief opening in the vicinity of the bottom of the spring fastener.

33 (currently amended). An assembly of a first part, the first part comprising ~~a rib~~, an extension and a spring fastener, the spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure having a cavity between the first side and the second side, in which cavity the rib of the first part is disposed, a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and a first engagement spring, the first engagement spring connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs, the first and second barbs engaging the ~~rib~~ extension of the first part, second front ends, and a second engagement spring, the second engagement spring connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end and the peak, the hindrance portion comprising ~~one structure selected from ripple, side rib, upward solid bent extension parallel to the peak and the free end, knurled region, bent teeth, each having a depth, and a combination thereof, and~~ one to three ripples, each ripple having the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion having a surface, wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple, said ripple provides ~~providing~~ increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by ~~a rib~~ an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal force being due to the

hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the ~~rib~~
extension without damage to said fastener.

34 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein
the depth of the ripple, ~~the side rib, the upward solid bent extension which is parallel to~~
~~the peak, the knurled region, and the bent teeth~~ is smaller than 0.2 mm.

35 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein the hindrance
portion comprises ripples, each ripple has the form of a depression, the depression having
a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion has a
surface, comprises not more than three ripples, and wherein the depth of each ripple is the
distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the
respective ripple.

36 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim ~~35~~ 33,
wherein the hindrance portion comprises only one ripple.

37 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 36, wherein
the back side has a slope in the range of 15 to 30 degrees with regard to the general plane
of the hindrance portion.

38 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 36, wherein
the ripple has only a back side, substantially lacking a front side.

39 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 38, wherein
the back side has the form of a curvature with a gradually decreasing slope.

40 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 39, wherein
the gradually decreasing slope has the shape of an arc in the range of 50-70 degrees with
a radius in the range of 0.03 -0.05 mm.

41 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of :

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.

42 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, is flexible, and is bent at its respective front end.

43 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 41, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, is flexible, and is bent at its respective front end.

44 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim ~~33~~ 41, wherein the material from which the spring fastener was made from has a thickness, the barbs have front points, and the front points of the outside outer barbs are at a distance from the second side smaller than the thickness of said material.

45 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 33, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

46 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 39, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

47 (currently amended). An assembly of a second part, the second part having a slot, and a spring fastener, the spring fastener inserted into the slot, the spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first

side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure having a cavity between the first side and the second side, in which cavity the rib of the first part is disposed, a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and a first engagement spring, the first engagement spring connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs[,]] having second front ends, and a second engagement spring, the second engagement spring connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end and the peak, the hindrance portion comprising ~~one structure selected from ripple, side rib, upward solid bent extension parallel to the peak and the free end, knurled region, bent teeth, each having a depth, and a combination thereof, and~~ one to three ripples, each ripple having the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion having a surface, wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple, said ripple provides ~~providing~~ increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by ~~a rib~~ an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal force being due to the hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the ~~rib~~ extension without damage to said fastener.

48 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim 47, wherein the depth of the ripple, ~~the side rib, the upward solid bent extension which is parallel to the peak, the knurled region, and the bent teeth~~ is smaller than 0.2 mm.

49 (cancelled). An assembly as defined in claim 47, wherein the hindrance portion comprises ripples, each ripple has the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion has a surface, comprises not more than three ripples, and wherein the depth of each ripple is the

distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple.

50 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim 49 47, wherein the hindrance portion comprises only one ripple.

51 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 50, wherein the back side has a slope in the range of 15 to 30 degrees with regard to the general plane of the hindrance portion.

52 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 50, wherein the ripple has only a back side, substantially lacking a front side.

53 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 52, wherein the back side has the form of a curvature with a gradually decreasing slope.

54 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 53, wherein the gradually decreasing slope has the shape of an arc in the range of 50-70 degrees with a radius in the range of 0.03 -0.05 mm.

55 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 47, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of :

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.

56 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 47, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, is flexible, and is bent at its respective front end.

57 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 55, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, is flexible, and is bent at its respective front end.

58 (currently amended). An assembly as defined in claim 47 55, wherein the material from which the spring fastener was made from has a thickness, the barbs have front points, and the front points of the outside outer barbs are at a distance from the second side smaller than the thickness of said material.

59 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 47, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

60 (previously presented). An assembly as defined in claim 53, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

61 (currently amended). A vehicle comprising an assembly of a first part, the first part comprising ~~a rib~~ an extension, and a second part, the second part having a slot, the first part and the second part connected with a spring fastener, the spring fastener inserted into the slot, the spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure having a cavity between the first side and the second side, in which cavity the ~~rib~~ extension of the first part is disposed, a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and a first engagement spring, the first engagement spring connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs, the first and second barbs engaging the ~~rib~~ extension of the first part, second front ends, and a second engagement spring, the second engagement spring connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion,

each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end and the peak, the hindrance portion comprising ~~one structure selected from ripple, side rib, upward solid bent extension parallel to the peak and the free end, knurled region, bent teeth, each having a depth, and a combination thereof, and~~ one to three ripples, each ripple having the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion having a surface, wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple, said ripple provides ~~providing~~ increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by ~~a rib~~ an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal force being due to the hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the ~~rib~~ extension without damage to said fastener.

62 (currently amended). A vehicle as defined in claim 61, wherein the depth of the ripple, ~~the side rib, the upward solid bent extension which is parallel to the peak, the knurled region, and the bent teeth~~ is smaller than 0.2 mm.

63 (cancelled). A vehicle as defined in claim 61, wherein the hindrance portion comprises ripples, each ripple has the form of a depression, the depression having a deepest part, a front side, a back side and a width, and the hindrance portion has a surface, comprises not more than three ripples, and wherein the depth of each ripple is the distance between the surface of the hindrance portion and the deepest part of the respective ripple.

64 (currently amended). A vehicle as defined in claim ~~63~~ 61, wherein the hindrance portion comprises only one ripple.

65 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 64, wherein the back side has a slope in the range of 15 to 30 degrees with regard to the general plane of the hindrance portion.

66 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 64, wherein the ripple has only a back side, substantially lacking a front side.

67 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 66, wherein the back side has the form of a curvature with a gradually decreasing slope.

68 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 67, wherein the gradually decreasing slope has the shape of an arc in the range of 50-70 degrees with a radius in the range of 0.03 -0.05 mm.

69 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 61, wherein the barbs are selected from a group consisting essentially of :

first barbs being outer barbs and second barbs being inner barbs;

first barbs being outside outer barbs and second barbs being inside outer barbs; and

first barbs being inner barbs and second barbs being inner barbs.

70 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 61, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, is flexible, and is bent at its respective front end.

71 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 69, wherein at least one barb is cut from its respective side, is flexible, and is bent at its respective front end.

72 (currently amended). A vehicle as defined in claim ~~64~~ 69, wherein the material from which the spring fastener was made from has a thickness, the barbs have front points, and the front points of the outside outer barbs are at a distance from the second side smaller than the thickness of said material.

73 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 61, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

74 (previously presented). A vehicle as defined in claim 67, wherein the engagement region is at least partially wider than the rest of the engagement spring.

75 (new). A spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure having a cavity between the first side and the second side, a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and a first engagement spring, the first engagement spring connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs second front ends, and a second engagement spring, the second engagement spring connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end, and the peak, the hindrance portion comprising one structure selected from ripple, side rib, upward solid bent extension parallel to the peak and the free end, knurled region, each having a depth, and a combination thereof, and providing increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal force being due to the hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the extension without damage to said fastener.

76 (new) A vehicle comprising parts connected with a spring fastener, the spring fastener comprising a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the first side connected to the second side thereby forming a U-shaped structure having a cavity between the first side and the second side, a bottom portion wherein the first side and the second side are connected, and a top portion, the first side comprising first barbs having first front ends, and a first engagement spring, the first engagement spring connected to the first side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, the second side comprising second barbs second front ends, and a second engagement spring, the second engagement spring connected to the second side in the vicinity of the bottom portion, each of the first and second engagement springs having a free end in the vicinity of the top portion, each spring also comprising a peak and an engagement region with a hindrance portion between the free end, and the peak, the hindrance portion comprising one structure selected from ripple, side rib, upward solid bent extension parallel to the peak and the free end, knurled region, each having a depth, and a combination thereof, and providing increased removal force, when the fastener is pulled by an extension of a first part engaged to the first and second barbs, after the fastener has been inserted into a slot of a second part, the slot having a slot width and edges on which edges the engagement region is engaged, the increased removal force being due to the hindrance portion, and wherein the fastener can be extracted when pulled by the extension without damage to said fastener.